A survey conducted in July 2000 in Nidasoshi village and another survey conducted in Keerunayaka Thanda village of Gulbarga district in 2002 have indicated that 7 and 18 persons respectively were affected by skeletal fluorosis.

Calamity relief package for Orissa

*398. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has doled Rs. 2,250 crore calamity relief package for 16 States affected by floods and drought as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the share of Orissa and the details of the development works that would be carried out with this aid;

(c) whether further such relief is also in the offing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Due to failure of the South-West monsoon 2002, 17 States experienced drought of varying magnitude. The State Governments submitted memoranda to the Government of India, seeking assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).This was examined by Central Teams and thereafter by the Inter-Ministerial Group. The recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMP) were accepted by the High Level Committee, and after taking into account the funds available under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) with the State Governments, to which Central Government contributes 75%, an amount of Rs. 2101.90 crore was released to the States from NCCF for drought relief. The requirement for drought have been assessed for the period upto 30th June, 2003 by which time to South-West monsoon 2003 is expected to set in.

Six States experienced floods during the year 2002. The memoranda received from these States were considered by the Inter-Ministerial Group and the HLC and an amount of Rs. 301.82 crore was approved as recommended by IMG. However, taking into account the balances under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) with the State Governments, an amount of Rs. 19.85 crore was released from NCCF for flood relief. No further assistance from NCCF is envisaged for relief insofar as the floods of the year 2002 are concerned.

Rs. 181.66 crores was assessed as the requirement of Orissa for drought relief. Rs. 176.37 crore was available with the State under the Calamity Relief Fund. The balance of Rs. 5.29 crore was released fromt the NCCF.

The corpus of CRF/NCCF is required to be used for meeting the expenditure for providing relief to the victims of cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood and hailstorm. The expenditure on development works is not covered under the scheme of CRF/NCCF.

Private companies in distribution of power

*399. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the States where private companies have taken over the distribution of power;

(b) the performance of there companies in the power distribution in there states;

(c) whether Central Government have provided any assistance to those private companies for distribution of power; and

(d) if so, the details therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The States where private companies have taken over distribution of power are Orissa and the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) The distribution in Orissa was privatized in 1999 when the Transmission and Distribution (T&T) losses were very high, the billing and collection efficiency was very poor, the status of metering was not encouraging. Consequent on privatization of distribution, signs of improvement on these and other operational levels are visible.

In Delhi, distribution has been privatized in July 2002. It is too early to assess the impact of this privatization. However, Delhi Transco Limited (DTL) has informed that the power supply position in Delhi continues to show improvement after privatization of the distribution system.

(c) Assistance is being provided by the Central Government under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) for up